

Message Text

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53

ORIGIN NRC-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06

ACDA-10 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

EPA-04 CEQ-01 /108 R

DRAFTED BY USNRC: JDLAFLEUR

APPROVED BY OES/NET/IM:DBHOYLE

NEA/INS:RMORLEY (INFO)

EUR/RPE:DSWARTZ (INFO)

ACDA: (INFO)

EUR/RPE:JPOLANSKY (INFO)

EA/J:SECTON (INFO)

NEA/IRN:INFO

EA/K (INFO)

ARA:(INFO)

NEA/IAI (INFO)

EA/ROC:BLEVIN (INFO)

IO/SCT:LCAVANAUGH (INFO)

ACDA:JMENZEL (INFO)

OES/NET/EN:GLASCOE (INFO)

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P 261658Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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EMBASSY PLEASE PASS TO SCICONS AND SCIATTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH,

SUBJECT: NRC STAFF RESIGNATION

REF: A-219

1. PLEASE PASS TO A-219 ADDRESSEES THE FOLLOWING COMPLETE TEXT OF AN NRC NEWS RELEASE DATED OCTOBER 21, 1976:

2. QUOTE: THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING THE RESIGNATION OF RONALD M. FLUEGGE, A REACTOR ENGINEER IN THE REACTOR SYSTEMS BRANCH, DIVISION OF SAFETY SYSTEMS, OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION: MR. FLUEGGE, WHO SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION THREE WEEKS AGO WITHOUT GIVING ANY REASONS, YESTERDAY (OCTOBER 20) WROTE A LETTER TO CHAIRMAN MARCUS A. ROWDEN IN WHICH HE CHARGED THAT THE NRC "HAS COVERED UP AND BRUSHED ASIDE" SIGNIFICANT SAFETY QUESTIONS, AND CALLED FOR THE SHUTDOWN OF ALL PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS.

3. HE WAS CONTACTED BY BENARD C. RUSCHE, DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION, WHO OFFERED TO MEET WITH MR. FLUEGGE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON OR LAST NIGHT. MR. FLUEGGE DECLINED ANY MEETING UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON. WE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNDERSTAND HE PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THIS MORNING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS. IN HIS RESPONSE TO MR. FLUEGGE'S LETTER, CHAIRMAN ROWDEN SAID:

4. "WHILE YOU SAY YOU HAVE SAFETY CONCERNS, YOUR LETTER LACKS SPECIFICITY, AND DOES NOT PERMIT US TO IDENTIFY AND EVALUATE THESE CONCERNS. AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION'S

STAFF, YOUR OBLIGATION IS TO MAKE KNOWN ANY SAFETY CONCERNS YOU HAVE IN FULL DETAIL." THE CHAIRMAN ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY THE STAFF THAT MR. FLUEGGE HAS "EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PACE AND NATURE" OF THE STAFF ACTIONS BEING TAKEN TO AVOID THE OCCURRENCE OF OVERPRESSURIZATION IN PRESSURIZED WATER REACTORS. "I AM TOLD THAT YOUR VIEWS, ALONG WITH THE CONTRASTING VIEWS OF MANY OTHERS, HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED IN THE ONGOING STAFF ACTIONS," THE CHAIRMAN SAID. "THE FINAL OUTCOME, TAKING ALL VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT, WILL REFLECT SOUND SAFETY JUDGEMENT. UNQUOTE.

5. PLEASE ALSO PASS THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE OCCURENCE OF OVERPRESSURIZATION IN PWR'S: IN EXAMINING VARIOUS EVENTS AT PWR OPERATING REACTORS, THE NRC STAFF HAS BECOME AWARE OF A POTENTIAL SAFETY ISSUE RELATING TO THE OVERPRESSURIZATION OF REACTOR VESSELS DURING COLD SHUTDOWNS, IN WHICH THE PRIMARY SYSTEM IS IN QUOTE WATER SOLID UNQUOTE CONDITION. THIRTY SUCH EVENTS HAVE OCCURRED AT RELATIVELY LOW REACTOR VESSEL TEMPERATURES, AT WHICH CONSERVATIVELY SET REACTOR VESSEL PRESSURE TEMPERATURE LIMITS WERE EXCEEDED. ONLY ONE OF THESE EVENTS, HOWEVER, EXCEEDED NORMAL OPERATING PRESSURE. MOST OF THE EVENTS RESULTED FROM INADVERTENT ISOLATION OF THE REACTOR LETDOWN SYSTEM. WHILE NONE OF THESE EVENTS OCCURRED WHILE THE REACTOR WAS CRITICAL AND NO DETECTABLE DAMAGE RESULTED, THE STAFF HAS ADVISED ALL PWR LICENSEES THAT STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCH EVENTS IN THE FUTURE. (END SUMMARY.)

6. THE FULL PRESS RELEASE AND A COPY OF THE LETTER RECENTLY SENT TO PWR LICENSEES IS BEING FORWARDED BY AIR POUCH.

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7. DUE TO PERSONNEL CHANGES IN FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES OF TECHNICAL NOTIFICATION ADDRESSEES:

RIO DE JANEIRO -- DELETE PROFESSOR HERVASIO G. DE CARVALHO, ADD: DR. ELVE M. DE CASTRO, ADVISOR TO THE CHAIRMAN;
COPENHAGEN -- DELETE HANS VON BUELOW, ADD: JORGEN HENNINGSEN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, THE AGENCY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, KAMPMANNSGADE 1, DK-1604 COPENHAGEN V;
TOKYO -- DELETE MASATO YAMANO AND ADD: YASUSHI MATSUDA AND

TAKASHI MATSUI, COORDINATOR, LWR SAFETY RESEARCH INFO. EXCHANGE, C/O RESEARCH 7 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, JAEB, TOKYO, JAPAN;
SEOUL -- ADD GUN BAE LEE, BUREAU OF ATOMIC ENERGY,

NUCLEAR REACTOR TECHNOLOGY DIVISION, MINISTRY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY BUREAU, SEOUL 110, ROK;
BERN -- ADD PROFESSOR ZANGER, VICE-DIRECTOR, SWISS
FEDERAL OFFICE OF ENERGY, KAPELLENSTRASSE 14, 3001 BERN,
SWITZERLAND. KISSINGER

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TAGS: TECH, US, (FLUEGGE, RONALD M), (ROWDEN, MARCUS A)
To: BERN
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